

Is the United States Military

By NORMAN S. PAUL

IT IS MY firm conviction that extension of the induction authority is absolutely essential for maintenance of our military strengths. This conviction is shared by Secretary McNamara, by the secretaries of the military departments and by the chiefs of staff. This judgment has been reinforced by our recent experiences and by the facts on our projected manpower needs.

The Congress has always generously responded to requests for legislation designed to improve the welfare of our service-



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men. The measures have served to enhance our ability to obtain volunteer enlistments and thereby help to minimize the direct requirement for selective service calls.

THE NAVY, MARINE Corps and Air Force have not had to place draft calls in recent years. I believe the last one for Navy was in 1956, and that was very small. And in the Army, the ratio of draftees has declined from more than one-fourth of the total active Army strength in 1958 to about one-sixth in the current fiscal year.

Essential Manpower Source

Selective service inductions have, however, continued to be an essential manpower source for Army throughout this period.

When a rapid expansion of our military strengths was required during the Berlin contingency, one of the initial actions taken by the secretary of defense was to authorize a sharp increase in draft calls.

These added inductees, upon completion of their initial training formed the primary manpower source for the two new divisions activated by the Army last year, and for other new or augmented combat elements.

Looking ahead, we currently estimate a requirement for about 76,000 inductees during fiscal year 1964, a relatively low replacement year. In the following four fiscal years, fiscal years 1964-67, the average number of inductees is currently projected at about 90,000 per year.

IN ADDITION TO the direct requirement for inductees by Army, all of the military services recognize that the existence of a military service obligation contributes substantially to their voluntary recruitment effort.

Desire Greater Choice

Our experience indicates that a large percentage of enlistees in the higher mental aptitude, or education groups, enlist for three-or-four-year terms rather than being drafted because, they desire a greater choice of brand of service, of job assignments and of training opportunities.

In the absence of the induction authority, all services would experience serious difficulties in maintaining their numerical strengths and would experience intensified shortages of high quality personnel in their technical and combat-leadership skills.

This situation would not, moreover, be limited to the enlisted ranks. The draft liability is a major factor influencing entry into ROTC, into officer candidate schools and into programs for direct appointment of professionals from civilian life. The elimination of the draft would adversely affect the number and quality of applicants for commissions in these and similar programs.

The most serious effect, in the case of officers, would probably be felt in medical officer procurement. Under the so-called doctor draft provisions of the current law, authority is provided for induction of medical, dental or allied specialists under special calls, or for ordering to active duty of members of reserve components.

The existence of this authority (for doctors) has, in most recent years, served to stimulate a sufficient number of volunteers so that direct recourse to selective service has not been necessary.

In recent years a very large portion of new manpower accessions into our National Guard and Organized Reserve units has consisted of young men in the draft-liable ages who have chosen this alternative for fulfilling their military service obligation.

Enlistments Would Drop

If the induction authority were discontinued, it is highly probable that non-prior-service enlistments into Reserve and National Guard units would be drastically reduced. Non-prior-service personnel—men with a potential draft obligation—constitute about two-thirds of the overall strength of the Ready Reserves in paid training.

DISCONTINUATION OF this induction authority would unquestionably curtail new inputs from this source and would severely reduce the strength of our Organized Reserve.

If currently programmed strengths are maintained through fiscal year 1967, it is clear that a majority of all men reaching age 26 days 200 with 10000000000 required for active or Reserve service.